

**§ 2503.4 Selection criteria.**

(a) In selecting programs for funding, the Commission will give preference to programs that:

(1) Will provide long-term benefits to the public;

(2) Will instill a work ethic and a sense of public service in the participants;

(3) Will be labor intensive and involve youth operating in crews;

(4) Can be planned and initiated promptly; and

(5) Will enhance skills development, educational level and opportunities, and leadership skills and qualities of participants.

(b) The Commission will also take into consideration:

(1)(i) The quality of the program, based on the program's ability to offer valuable services in the communities where they are needed most and where programs do not exist or where existing volunteer service programs are too limited to meet community needs; to provide productive, meaningful, educational experiences for participants that incorporate service-learning methods; to involve the participants in the design and operation of the program; to involve individuals from diverse backgrounds (including economically disadvantaged youth), who will serve together and explore the root-causes of community problems;

(ii) The quality of leadership and management, as measured by the qualifications of the principal leaders of the program, and the program's plans and processes for recruitment, training, supervision, participant support, evaluation, administration and other key activities;

(2) Innovative aspects of the program, based on the:

(i) Ability of the program to advance knowledge about effective community service in ways that will be broadly applicable beyond the program location; and

(ii) Approach to evaluation and other means of learning from the experience of the program;

(3)(i) Replicability, based on the ability and willingness of the program to assist others in learning from the experience and replicating the approach of the program; and

(4) Sustainability, based on:

(i) Inclusion in a State Comprehensive Plan;

(ii) Strong and broad-based community support for and involvement in the program; and

(5) Evidence that financial resources will be available to continue the program after the expiration of the grant.

(c) In addition, the Commission shall:

(1) Ensure the equitable treatment of both urban and rural areas; and

(2) Fund an equal number of service and conservation corps programs. A corps program performing both conservation and service corps activities shall be considered one conservation corps and one service corps.

(d) Further, in reviewing applications that propose to carry out activities on Federal public lands or Indian lands, the Commission shall consult with the Department of the Interior.

**§ 2503.5 Amount of awards.**

The Commission, in determining the amount of a grant to be awarded under this program, shall consider:

(a) The additional number of participants to be served;

(b) The youth unemployment rate, as measured by the U.S. Department of Labor, in the State;

(c) The type of activity proposed to be carried out; and

(d) Other criteria as may be determined by the Commission.

**§ 2503.6 General content of the State application.**

(a) All applications submitted to the Commission by the States, under this process, shall include:

(1) A description of any youth corps program the State proposes to operate directly;

(2) A description of any grant program the State proposes to conduct;

(3) The number of individuals currently involved in community service as participants in programs proposed to receive funds under this part (if known);

(4) The number of additional participants and non-participant volunteers expected to become involved in community service under the program (if known);